

Brussels, 5 January 2000

5037/00 (Presse 1)
P 1/00

Statement by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union
concerning the parliamentary elections held in the Republic of Croatia on 3 January

The European Union welcomes the parliamentary elections held in the Republic of Croatia, on the 3rd of January 2000. These elections, which the international observers considered to have been conducted in a calm and orderly manner, with the voters able to express their political will freely, may represent a significant step towards drawing Croatia closer to the perspective of full integration into European structures.

The European Union congratulates the people of Croatia for the democratic manner in which the elections have been conducted and calls for all political forces to respect and honour the electoral results.

The European Union reaffirms its readiness to develop and intensify its co-operation with the Republic of Croatia, should the future government pursue meaningful reforms, deepening its democratic institutions, strengthening its respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, carrying through economic reforms and take measures leading to ethnic reconciliation and regional peace and stability.